An Evaluation Study on Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was undertaken by the ORG Centre for Social Research, New Delhi. As per the findings of the study there was a diversion of wheat and rice of 53.3% and 39% respectively at the all India level. The final report has been received in September, 2005 and forwarded to States/UTs for comments.

**Sickness of sugar industry in Bihar**

†2001. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sugar industry has become sick in Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the production of sugar mills operating in private sector is much below than the set target;

(c) whether an ambitious plan for the revival of sugar industry in Bihar has been prepared; and

(d) if so, the details with regard to the aforesaid parts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As per the information received from the Cane Commissioner, Government of Bihar, there are 28 sugar mills in Bihar. Of these, 15 sugar factories under the Bihar State Sugar Corporation are sick and closed; 9 private sugar factories out of 10 are operating; out of the three sugar factories of B.I.C. Group, two sugar factories are under liquidation under the orders of B.I.F.R. and one is under revival process through a private entrepreneur under the orders of B.I.F.R.

(b) The average recovery percentage of sugar in the current season up to 28.02.2007 is 8.62 whereas it was 9.36 in the corresponding period last year. Likewise, the sugar production as on 28.2.2007 is 3.09 lac tons as compared to 3.28 lac tons of sugar production in the corresponding period last year.

(c) and (d) State Government has taken steps for revival of the sick/ closed mills through privatization, either on long term lease or sale. For

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

this purpose, the S.B.I. CAPS has been engaged as advisor for the revival purpose, who has given a programme to complete the process in 16 weeks.'

**Preventing private players from procurement of foodgrains**

2002. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to prevent private players from procuring foodgrains from the *mandis* during the forthcoming harvesting season;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such a step would not preclude the farmers to derive benefit from the competition; and

(d) if so, how Government propose to restore such benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Expansion of Antyodaya Anna Yojana**

2003. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: .

(a) the steps Government have taken to expand the Antyodaya Anna Yojana in tribal belts of the country; and

(b) the financial and physical progress of the Scheme during 2006-07, State-wise?

THE MINISTER Of STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. The Central Government, through FCI, has assumed the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and